



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENT
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

MAIL

Paper No. 16

AUG 4 - 2003

Zimmerman & Levi, LLP
226 St. Paul Street
Westfield, New Jersey 07090

DIRECTOR OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

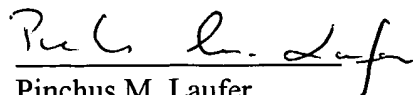
In re Application of: Dave Leahy et al.)
Application No. 09/632,154)
Filed: August 3, 2000)
For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)
ENABLING USERS TO INTERACT)
IN A VIRTUAL SPACE)

**DECISION ON PETITION
UNDER M.P.E.P. §708.02(II):
INFRINGEMENT**

This is a decision on the petition, filed March 17, 2003, under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(d) and M.P.E.P. §708.02(II): Infringement, to make the above-identified application special.

A grantable petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.102(c), and M.P.E.P. §708.02, Section II, must be accompanied by payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.117(h) and a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.102 by the applicant or assignee or statements by an attorney/agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office that (A) there is an infringing device or product actually on the market or method in use; (B) a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device, product, or method with the claims of the application has been made, and that, in his or her opinion, some of the claims are unquestionably infringed; and (C) he or she has made or caused to be made a careful and thorough search of the prior art or has a good knowledge of the prior art. A fee under 37 C.F.R. for such a petition is required .

Applicant's submission meets all the criteria set out above, accordingly, the Petition is **GRANTED**. The application file is being forwarded to the Examiner of Record for expedited examination.



Pinchus M. Laufer
Special Programs Examiner
Technology Center 2100
Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Security
(703) 306-4160